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NOTES.

Some of our friends have kindly inquired after our "editorial department." In reply, it might be said, that when we have anything to say, that we know ought to be said editorially, we will have it so printed.

Our aim is, primarily, to publish the papers and proceedings of the O. I. of M. E.; in the second place, to furnish our readers

with the best of such other matter of engineering interest as may be of profit to them and convenient to us.

It would be safe to say, that the majority of the readers of the JOURNAL are careful thinkers, and constant readers of all the best technical publications. It might be a little presumptuous to offer suggestions, editorially, to men of such class.

Ore and Ore Mining in Lawrence County, by Jas. E. Lawton, E. M., and a paper by Anthony Howell, were received too late for publication in this number, but will have places in the next.

The editors of the JOURNAL, while they acknowledge the favors of the gentlemen whose papers appear in this issue, also equally thank those whose papers did not seem to treat of matters within their field of discussion.

In every case the latter have been referred to the proper medium of publication.

T. B. Bancroft, Inspector of Mines, shows good sense in declining to furnish data, concerning himself, for print. He would rather be known through the quiet performance of his duties.

Thorough qualification and patient labor inevitably bring worthy men to the front. We take pleasure in reprinting, in part, the *Times-Democrat's* notice of the Ohio Geological Exhibit, World's Exhibition; especially in that the article closes with a well-earned commendation of the efforts of Edward Orton, Jr.

We earnestly request the operators and engineers of Ohio to carefully read and hereafter to thoroughly discuss the paper on "Exhaustive Mining," by Mr. Jennings, and Mr. Gordon's article on "Coke."

These are indeed the vital topics of the day; of far greater importance than many seem to imagine.

If we are to fully realize the values of our coal-field properties, and furnish the wages of profitable labor to thousands of needy men, we must practice "EXHAUSTIVE MINING." If our furnaces are to retain the breath of life we must *coke our own coal*. Mr. Gordon's article darts many a ray of practical light into the dark room of doubt in which we have been experimenting.

While sensible men may differ widely as to the field of investigation of the Hocking Valley Committee, they seem to agree readily upon one point—that the report equaled zero.

Of the eighteen blast furnaces in the Mahoning Valley just half are in operation. This is also true of the six blast furnaces in the Shenango Valley, three being in blast and three out. Of the 223 blast furnaces in the United States, 90 are in blast, producing 45,675 tons of pig metal per week. If all the furnaces were in operation the product per week would be 100,779 tons.—*Iron Age*.

The American Manufacturer says: As the cause of the present depression in the iron trade is primarily the refusal or inability of railroads, who are the great consumers of iron, to purchase, it is evident that there can be no revival in the iron trade until this condition of things shall change. The return of prosperity can only come with the undertaking of important enterprises, with an increase in the number of minor ones and with a much greater in the renewals and repairs.

When the iron business does pick up again there will be comfort in the fact that the country's demands have increased largely as is shown by the fact that even in the present abnormal depression the demand is equal to that of 1880, which up to that time was unparalleled.—*News-Register*.

Iron must go. The age of steel has arrived. The demoralized condition of the iron trade for the past two or three years, assigned to various causes, avoiding always the true one, by the manufacturer and trade journals that were in a position to know the facts, can now be explained upon this basis of truth. Steel is better than iron for every purpose that iron can be used.—*Cleveland Press*.

Alabama doubled her coal output in 1884, as compared with the figures of 1883.

The conclusion has been reached by M. Foyal that the absorption of atmospheric oxygen by coal dust usually produces the rise in temperature to which spontaneous combustion is due. He finds that lignite is ignited at the low temperature of 300 degrees, anthracite at 575 degrees, and other varieties of coal, in powdered form, at intermediate temperature.

Herr Rudolph Kalb, whose theory of earthquake has for some years been much discussed in scientific circles, and whose predictions have frequently been substantiated by events has just pro-

mulgated a new theory with reference to choke damp in mines. He says that explosions coincide for the most part with earthquakes, and he predicts a very critical state of things shortly, when, he says, the greatest caution should be observed in mines. The next dates when he anticipates danger are the 30th of March, the 12th of June, and the 12th of July. So far as the first of these dates is concerned the prediction has been verified, earthquakes causing more or less damage having occurred in the south of Spain.—*New York Sun*.

BEAVER FALLS, March 25.—Yesterday morning an explosion of natural gas completely wrecked a house in the northern part of the town, occupied by Robert Aley. Mrs. Aley was alone in the house at the time, and had noticed a peculiar odor, but attributed it to coal oil. The first intimation she had of danger was a sheet of flame springing up around her and setting fire to her clothing, followed instantly by an explosion which blew out the south and west fronts of the house.

The gas had been leaking from the main in the neighborhood for a day or two, and the the theory regarding the explosion is that the escaping gas worked its way through the loose, gravelly soil to the cellar of the house, and coming from the cellar was ignited by the fire in the kitchen stove.

Smith Bros., of this city, who are boring the gas well at Iron-ton in which was struck a tar like substance that gave out a very offensive odor, inform us that they never before struck anything of the kind. They also inform us that the boring at Iron-ton is so much easier than in this region that in eighteen days they went down 1,260 feet, a depth that took three months' time here.—*Steubenville Gazette*.

PROBABLY QUARTZ.—Mrs. Willis, a few days since, in looking over some stones she had previously found along the banks of the Licking river, discovered one that had the appearance of a petrified corn cob, filled with bright and glittering little stones, which she immediately surmised to be diamonds, and to which she called the attention of Dr. Ayres. The Doctor immediately pronounced the stones to be genuine diamonds. She claims the stones are worth \$30,000, while the value of the one found by Dr. Ayres is fixed at \$50,000.—*Newark Advocate*.

DENVER, April 26. — The Tribune Republican's Leadville special says: At 2 this afternoon news reached this city that eleven men working in Homestake mine, on Homestake mountain on Eagle river, were buried in a snow slide. A special train from here carrying a rescuing party left within an hour for the scene of the disaster. Arriving at a point nearest the mine, the party was met by a crowd of excited miners, who informed them that it was useless to attempt to reach the mine through the wilderness of soft snow, even with snow shoes, at that time of day. The party return to Leadville, and will repeat the trip early in the morning, when it is hoped the snow will berr the weight of the men.

A large rescuing party left Leadville Sunday morning for the scene of the snow slide at Homestake mountain, and is now working with desperate earnestness to reach the victims. Up to this evening two bodies were reported recovered. The fate of the other buried miners will probably not be known before sometime Monday, as a great mountain of snow must be moved.

No more instructive and complete exhibit of the geology of a State is to be found in the Exposition than that from Ohio. It is at once unique, thorough and exhaustive. Beginning with one of the finest geological maps ever made of an American State, which shows not only the disposition of the rocks, but the vertical arrangement of the State in sections, and the location of every furnace, ore mine, coal bank, salt well, oil well, gas well and quarry, it first gives specimens of every coal vein in the State. A pillar of coal nearly thirteen feet in height and weighing several tons represents the great seam of the Hocking Valley, covering nearly 100,000 acres and varying in thickness from eleven to fourteen feet.

With this are liberal specimens of the famous Briar Hill coal, the standard of merit for bituminous coal all over the United States; the Coshocton coals, which burn in a grate like hickory wood; the Massillon coals, the Riverside or Peacock coals, all famous for excellence for domestic purposes; the Cambridge, the Jackson, the Wellston, the Pomeroy, the Akron, and others, varying in quality and adapted to special uses in manufactures. The Leetonia and Steubenville coking coals are shown with the coke made from them, and the Bedford cannel coal from Warsaw, O., the principal gas coal of the State.

An exhibit of iron from the Lowellville furnace is surrounded with specimens of the materials from which and by which it is

made, and near by is another very interesting object lesson in iron manufacture—a column showing the materials and the manner and order in which they are put into the ninety or more blast furnaces of the State to make pig iron.

The Ohio Commissioner is to be congratulated upon the completeness and the close adherence to a purpose to show the economic geology of Ohio, her rocks and what use is made of them, which has been so admirably achieved by Mr. Edward Orton, Jr., to whom, it is understood, he entrusted the work.—*N. O. Times Democrat*.

HARRISBURG, April 10.—A bill was favorably reported in the House providing for a weekly allowance of \$10 for a period not exceeding twenty weeks to any miner engaged in the mining of bituminous coal, in case of accident, and \$500 to the widow or children in case of death.

PITTSBURG, April 20.—Concerning the four Belgian glass-workers held in New York at the instance of the Knights of Labor, charging they were imported contrary to the new anti-labor law, the Window-glass Workers' Association here propose to make a test case of it. They say they will carry it to the highest courts in order to put an end to the importation of cheap labor under contract. The Union is wealthy and numerically strong, and the decision will be awaited with interest by manufacturers and workmen generally.

COLUMBUS, O., April 20.—Over two hundred miners, mostly Poles and Hungarians, who have been imported to take the places of the strikers in the Hocking Valley, left Carbon Hill yesterday, bound for their home across the sea. They assign as the reason for their leaving their inability to earn a living. Some of them say they have experienced days when the value of the powder they used in blasting their output of coal exceeded their wages. The experienced miners are likely to remain and take their chances on a prospect for better work in the near future.

The committee to investigate the Hocking Valley strike agreed upon a report to-day.

The entire abolition of the truck or order system is recommended. In future disagreements between operators and employees, arbitration is recommended. The report further urges legis-

lation to prohibit corporations from compelling employes to sign iron-clad contracts.

The House passed a large number of bills to-day and several committees sent in their reports. It transpired that the Hocking Valley Investigating Committee was little better than a farce. The chairman submitted a mass of manuscripts which he moved to have printed. He said the testimony might be a subject of hearing to this or a future Legislature. The work of the committee has been a failure and the report is void of valuable information or beneficial results.—*Cor. Steubenville Gazette, April 10th.*

The Hocking Valley Investigating Committee have made their report. It is lengthy, but does not amount to much, after all. The Committee recommend the settling of all disputes through arbitration laws, and declared against the "truck system." The passage of the anti-scrip law is a good thing for the *Standard* office. The new form of order, to avoid the new law, is now the rush. On last Friday the *Standard* office printed four thousand of these orders, for three different companies. Come on.—*Jackson Standard.*

The Hocking Valley strike is over. The miners made a final surrender. It was a struggle full of such unflinching endurance of privation and determined courage as to make it almost heroic. At the same time there was coupled with it much that was unworthy of free labor. The fact that millions have been lost to both parties, and untold suffering endured by the men and their families, all to no effect, seems to indicate that there are yet economic and social problems worthy of a philosopher's devotion.—*News-Register.*